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June 20, 1994

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**JUN 20 1994**

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY**

**Via Hand-Delivery**

William F. Caton, Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 222  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: ET Docket No. 93-7: Report of Ex Parte Discussion

Dear Mr. Caton:

On Friday, June 17, 1994, representatives of the consumer electronics industry met with Bruce Franca, Deputy Chief Engineer, and Alan Stillwell, Economics Advisor, Office of Engineering and Technology, to discuss the above-referenced proceeding. The industry representatives participating in the meeting were George Hanover and Barbara McLennan, Vice Presidents (for Engineering and for Government and Legal Affairs, respectively) of the Consumer Electronics Group of the Electronic Industries Association ("EIA/CEG"), James E. Bonan, Vice President for Home Video Consumer Products Group, Sony Electronics Inc., Stephen E. Sigman, Vice-President for Consumer Affairs, Zenith Sales Company, Edward M. Milbourn, Manager of Television Systems Planning, Television Division, Americas, Thomson Consumer Electronics, and the undersigned.

For the most part, the information and perspectives presented during the meeting had already been placed in the public record by way of pleadings filed by EIA/CEG or the Cable-Consumer Electronics Compatibility Advisory Group.

The major topics of discussion were the establishment of a digital standard for cable transmissions and the appropriate interface between cable systems and consumer electronics equipment. The industry representatives reiterated their support for a rulemaking to set standards for digital cable transmissions. Since it appears likely that some cable systems may begin offering digital transmissions in the not-too-distant future,

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the need to begin the process of establishing digital standards is pressing. EIA/CEG and the industry representatives believe that it is also essential that the Decoder Interface approach, already mandated by the recent order in this docket, be employed in the digital context as well as in the analog context. Like the analog Decoder Interface that is already being developed, the digital security interface should separate the security function from other features and functions, and the latter should be accessible to consumers through a competitive marketplace. The development of a digital security-only interface would inject competition in the provision of features, lowering the cost to consumers and encouraging the development of new services. The industry representatives and Commission staff also discussed technical methods that might achieve these goals.

Another topic of discussion was the practice of "channel mapping" that is used by some cable systems. Channel mapping occurs when a cable system broadcasts programming on a frequency that is associated with one number in the IS-132 channel numbering plan but displays a different number on the set-top device. When consumers tune cable programming without a set-top device, they will have to tune to a completely different number than when they use a set-top device. This confusion is unnecessary. Cable operators should be required to display the number as associated in the channel numbering plan (but could choose to display both numbers). Consumers should be able to tune programming by the same number no matter what device is used for the tuning.

This letter and the extra copy of this letter are being transmitted in accordance with Section 1.1206(a) of the Commission's rules. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Campbell

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Franca  
Alan Stillwell

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bcc: Barbara McLennan  
George Hanover

~~JLG~~  
~~JFF~~